

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SNM-02 AID-05 EB-07 /079 W

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R 060950Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3451

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL MANDAL

"3./AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1288

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, PFOR, PINT, SNAR, BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #17, APRIL 30 - MAY 6

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1. COUNCIL OF STATE MEMBERS DEMOTED (CONF)

AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 4 APPOINTED U THAN
SEIN, STATE COUNCIL MEMBER WHO WAS ALSO ONE OF THE
ORIGINAL REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERS IN 1962,
CHAIRMAN OF THE SERVICES PERSONNEL SELECTION BODY,
AND U KYAW SOE, CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
OF THE BSPP, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF

PUBLIC SERVICES. THE TWO WERE ALSO PERMITTED TO RESIGN FROM THE STATE COUNCIL.

COMMENT: THE COUNCIL OF STATE IS A PRESTIGIOUS SINECURE AND REMOVAL FROM THAT BODY TO THESE MINOR POSITIONS IS A DEFINITE DEMOTION. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY U THAN SEIN, WHO IS VERY SENIOR, IS BEING APPOINTED TO THE RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT SERVICES PERSONNEL SELECTION BODY; U THAN SEIN HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE THE PAST FEW YEARS. AS FOR U KYAW SOE, RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE RECEIVED HIS DEMOTION AS A RESULT OF PRESIDENTIAL PIQUE. U KYAW SOE CAME IN SECOND BEHIND SAN YU WITH NE WIN THIRD ON THE FIRST TWO BALLOTS FOR ELECTION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED THIRD PARTY CONGRESS.

2. NE WIN CHINA VISIT CONTINUES (LOU)
CONTINUING HIS CHINA VISIT, PRESIDENT NE WIN MET WITH PRC VICE-PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN ON APRIL 29, AND THE FOLLOWING DAY WITH PRC CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG AND VICE CHAIRMAN YET CHIEN-YEH. THE DISCUSSIONS WITH HUA AND YEH WERE DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY." BEFORE LEAVING PEKING ON A TOUR OF CHINA, PRESIDENT NE WIN HOSTED A ZZATE BANQUET. TOASTS AT THE BANQUET WERE UNEXCEPTIONAL. PRESIDENT NE WIN, HIS WIFE, AND PARTY HAVE SINCE TOURED A NUMBER OF PLACES, INCLUDING THE TACHAI PRODUCTION BRIGADE IN SHANSI, AND THE INNER MONGOLIAN AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC.

COMMENT: NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AT THE CLOSE OF
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THE GUB/PRC TALKS IN PEKING AS WAS DONE DURING NE WIN'S LAST VISIT IN 1975. WHAT SIGNIFICANCE THIS HAS, IF ANY, IS AS YET UNCERTAIN, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SUCH A COMMUNIQUE COULD STILL BE ISSUED PRIOR TO NE WIN'S

DEPARTURE FROM CHINA.

3. COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZATION (UNC)
THE GUB COMPENSATION COMMITTEE HAS REVIEWED 664 CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED PROPERTY OUT OF 18,985 SUBMITTED SINCE THE COMPENSATION REGULATIONS WENT INTO EFFECT IN 1974. OUT OF THE NUMBER REVIEWED, 538 CLAIMS WERE APPROVED AND 367 HAVE BEEN PAID. MOST OF THE PAYMENTS (311) WERE MADE BETWEEN APRIL AND DECEMBER 1976.

COMMENT: COMPENSATION IS OBVIOUSLY A LONG, SLOW PROCESS IN BURMA, BUT THE FACT THAT THE GUB HAS RELEASED ADATA ON THE PROGRESS OF THESE CLAIMS INDICATES IT IS NOT ENTIRELY A DEAD ISSUE. IT MAY BE THAT THE RECENT FAILURE

TO APPROVE GUARANTEES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROMPTZ
THE GUB TO PUBLISH THESE FIGURES AS AN INDICATION THAT
IT INTENDS TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS TO PRIVATE ENTER-
PRISE.

4. JOINT VENTURES DEFINED (LOU)

U AYE HLAING, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNION BANK OF BURMA
(CENTRAL BANK), RECENTLY ATTEMPTED TO CLARIFY FOR FOREIGN
DIPLOMATS THE GUB POSITION ON JOINT VENTURES. HE SAID
DIRECT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE GUB AND PRIVATE FOREIGN
FIRMS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE; JOINT VENTURES REQUIRE A
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENT. THE DONOR NATION
COULD SUBCONTRACT THE PROJECT TO A PRIVATE FIRM, AND
THIS CONSTITUTES A JOINT VENTURE IN GUB'S VIEW. THIS
WOULD APPLY TO ALL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY INCLUDING
FISHERIES AND MINERAL EXTRACTION.

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COMMENT: THE CHAIRMAN'S CLARIFICATION SEEMS TO
RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY FOR PRIVATE FOREIGN PARTICIPA-
TION IN BURMA'S ECONOMY IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS "JOINT
VENTURES" UNDER THIS DEFINITION ARE SYNONOMOUS WITH
BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

5. LATE MONSOON PREDICTED (UNC)

THE GUB AGRICULTURAL CORPORATION WARNED FARMERS THAT
ACCORDING TO METEOROLOGY DEPARTMENT FORECASTS, THE MONSOON
RAINS WILL ARRIVE INMURMA MUCH LATER THAN NORMAL. FARMERS
WERE URGED TO MAKE CULTIVATION PLANS ON THE BASIS OF THIS
FORECAST.

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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AMCONSUL MANDALAY
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USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1288

COMMENT: LATE MONSOONS AND/OR LOWER RAINFALL WOULD DIMINISH AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS, ESPECIALLY FOR BURMA'S ALL-IMPORTANT RICE PADDY CROP. FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR THE PST TWO GROWING SEASONS HAVE RESULTED IN BUMPER PADDY HARVESTS, BUT THIS FORECAST MAY MEAN THAT BURMA'S PADDY OUTPUT WILL BE REDUCED THIS CROP YEAR.

6. POPPY DESTRUCTION (UNC)

ACCORDING TO BURMESE PRESS REPORTS, THE GUB'S POPPY DESTRUCTION CAMPAIGN ERADICATED 8,769.42 ACRES OF OPIUM POPPY IN FY 1976/77 (APRIL 1976 TO MARCH 1977). THE VAST MAJORITY OF ACREAGE DESTROYED (8,104 ACRES) WAS IN THE SHAN STATE.
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7. REGISTERED DRUG ADDICTS (UNC)

ACCORDING TO THE CHAIRMAN OF BURMA'S DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT BODY, DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH U KHIN NYEIN, THERZAARE OVER 20,000 REGISTERED DRUG ADDICTS IN BURMA. OUT OF THESE, SOME 15,000 ARE REGISTERED AS OPIUM ADDICTS, 900 AS HEROIN ADDICTS AND ABOUT 4,000 ADDICTED TO OTHER DRUGS. U KHIN NYEIN SAID EFFORTS TO REGISTER AND TREAT DRUG ADDICTS, PAPWICULARLY AMONG HEROIN ADDICTS WERE REGISTRATION FIGURES ARE OBVIOUSLY TOO LOW, WOULD BE INTENSIFIED.
OSBORN

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